

Trump hotel attracted would-be judges, ambassadors, pardon-seekers, House Democrats say

By BERNARD CONDON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Judges seeking appointments to the federal bench. Wealthy Republicans hoping for ambassadorships. Criminals who wanted pardons. They were among the big spenders at Donald Trump's Washington, D.C., hotel while he was president. And many got what they wanted, according to a report released Friday by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee. The 57-page report said spending at Trump's luxury hotel by those seeking favors helped him turn the presidency into a "money-making opportunity," raising the specter of more "pay to play" schemes should GOP presidential nominee be re-elected next month. But the report, which focused on spending by U.S. officials rather than foreign governments, offered few new revelations from earlier findings as it was limited in scope. The committee's Democrats, who are in the minority, documented \$300,000 of such spending in just 11 months of Trump's presidency spanning 2017 and 2018.



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The north entrance of the Trump International is seen in Washington, March 11, 2019..

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

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Records examined by the committee also did not always include whether the money was personal or from taxpayer sources. That distinction is necessary to show whether the payments amounted to a violation of the Constitution's emoluments clause, which bars presidents from receiving payments or gifts from government officials without congressional approvals.

Among the examples cited: Two former ambassadors — one eventually sent to Germany and the other Switzerland — spending thousands of dollars at the hotel before and after they were confirmed for their positions. And campaign fundraiser Elliott Broidy spending more than \$15,000 there before he was pardoned by Trump for illegal lobbying.

"We must put legal barriers in place now to prevent the kind of rip-off corruption our Founding Fathers so strongly opposed," Rep. Jamie Raskin, the committee's ranking member, said in calling for new legislation to prohibit such spending. The Trump Organization said it charges government officials at cost at its properties, and described the report as purely political.

"This is just another desperate attempt by House Democrats to rehash an old unsubstantiated story



A view of The Trump International Hotel is seen, March 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

just two weeks before the upcoming Presidential Election," said company spokeswoman Kimberly Benza in a statement. "To be clear, The Trump Organization does not profit whatsoever from any government officials staying at our properties." In a statement, the Republican-controlled Oversight Committee called the report "more recycled garbage from the Democrats' fruitless and close to a decade-long investigation of President Trump."

The report was based on financial documents released by Trump's former accounting firm, Mazars, at request of the Oversight Committee when the Dem-

ocrats were in control. But the flow of those documents was shut down when the Republicans took over in 2023. The report says at least 16 federal and state officials spent more than \$100,000 at the Trump International Hotel while in office during the 11-month period, raising the possibility they used taxpayer money.

Spending by ambassadors to Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary and the United Kingdom often came at times when they were on official business. During a 2018 conference in Maryland, 10 miles from Washington, U.S. ambassadors to Germany, Switzerland and Canada

chose to stay at the Trump hotel even though there were plenty of hotels closer to the conference site.

"Let's Keep TRUMP hotel," wrote then-Canadian Ambassador Kelly Craft in email after an aide suggested closer hotels. The charge for Craft's stay was \$1,395 per night, according to the report. Former ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, stayed 19 nights at the hotel, half before he was confirmed as ambassador, spending nearly \$10,000, the report says.

A spokeswoman for Craft said the former ambassador personally paid for all room expenses above the government-approved per

diem rates, adding, "There was absolutely never any direct or indirect 'pay to play' inferences by President Trump or anyone associated with him."

Grenell did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Trump administration has argued that government officials paying for products or services offered by a president, such as use of a hotel room, doesn't count as a banned gift under the emoluments clause. The Supreme Court declined to rule when the issue came before it in 2021 because Trump had already left office.

Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert, said the emoluments clause is only part of the problem.

"The fact that folks who eventually got pardons and others who sought appointments chose to line Trump's pockets during this 11-month period is troubling, suggesting that those wanting Trump to take particular actions believed it was in their interest to spend money at his businesses," said Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "Do we want a president who can be influenced this way?"

The report says four future federal judges also stayed at the hotel at key dates during the 11-month period while pursuing Trump's nomination, Senate confirmation or both. □



This undated photo provided by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, shows U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan.

Associated Press

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge overseeing Donald Trump's 2020 election inter-

Judge unseals heavily redacted trove of evidence in Trump's 2020 election interference case

ference case made public Friday a heavily redacted trove of documents that provide a small glimpse into the evidence prosecutors will present if the case ever goes to trial.

The nearly 1,900 pages of documents collected by special counsel Jack Smith's team were initially filed under seal to help U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan decide what allegations can proceed to trial following the Supreme Court opinion in July that conferred broad

immunity on former presidents for official acts they take in office.

The information that could be seen in the redacted version released Friday appeared to be material that for the most part had already been made public, including screenshots of Trump social media posts about the 2020 election and a transcript of the video statement he made on Jan. 6, 2021 in, which he told the rioters attacking the Capitol to go home, but added:

"we love you" and "you're very special."

The overwhelming majority of the pages released Friday were whited-out. The redacted files are believed to include things like transcripts of grand jury testimony, which remain under wraps because of grand jury secrecy rules.

Other information visible to the public includes passages from former Vice President Mike Pence's book, excerpts of testimony provided by several witnesses to

the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 riot and a transcript of Trump's phone call pressuring Georgia election officials to "find" enough votes to reverse his election loss in the state to Democrat Joe Biden.

Other documents include fundraising emails from Trump's 2020 campaign and Pence's letter telling Congress on Jan. 6 that he could not claim "unilateral authority to determine which electoral votes should be counted and which should not." □

U.S. to probe Tesla's 'Full Self-Driving' system after pedestrian killed in low visibility conditions

By **TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's road safety agency is investigating Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" system after getting reports of crashes in low-visibility conditions, including one that killed a pedestrian.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in documents that it opened the probe on Thursday after the company reported four crashes when Teslas encountered sun glare, fog and airborne dust. In addition to the pedestrian's death, another crash involved an injury, the agency said.

Investigators will look into the ability of "Full Self-Driving" to "detect and respond appropriately to reduced roadway visibility conditions, and if so, the contributing circumstances for these crashes."

The investigation covers roughly 2.4 million Teslas from the 2016 through 2024 model years.

A message was left early Friday seeking comment from Tesla, which has repeatedly said the system cannot drive itself and human drivers must be ready to intervene at all times.

Last week Tesla held an event at a Hollywood stu-



The logo of Tesla car is pictured at the Paris Auto Show, in Paris, Monday, Oct. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

dio to unveil a fully autonomous robotaxi without a steering wheel or pedals. Musk, who has promised autonomous vehicles before, said the company plans to have autonomous Models Y and 3 running without human drivers next year. Robotaxis without steering wheels would be available in 2026 starting in California and Texas, he said. The investigation's impact on Tesla's self-driving ambitions isn't clear. NHTSA would have to approve any robotaxi without ped-

als or a steering wheel, and it's unlikely that would happen while the investigation is in progress. But if the company tries to deploy autonomous vehicles in its existing models, that likely would fall to state regulations. There are no federal regulations specifically focused on autonomous vehicles, although they must meet broader safety rules. NHTSA also said it would look into whether any other similar crashes involving "Full Self-Driving" have happened in low vis-

ibility conditions, and it will seek information from the company on whether any updates affected the system's performance in those conditions.

"In particular, this review will assess the timing, purpose and capabilities of any such updates, as well as Tesla's assessment of their safety impact," the documents said.

Tesla reported the four crashes to NHTSA under an order from the agency covering all automakers. An agency database says

the pedestrian was killed in Rimrock, Arizona, in November of 2023 after being hit by a 2021 Tesla Model Y. Rimrock is about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Phoenix.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety said in a statement that the crash happened just after 5 p.m. Nov. 27 on Interstate 17. Two vehicles collided on the freeway, blocking the left lane. A Toyota 4Runner stopped, and two people got out to help with traffic control. A red Tesla Model Y then hit the 4Runner and one of the people who exited from it. A 71-year-old woman from Mesa, Arizona was pronounced dead at the scene. Further details weren't immediately available. Tesla has twice recalled "Full Self-Driving" under pressure from NHTSA, which in July sought information from law enforcement and the company after a Tesla using the system struck and killed a motorcyclist near Seattle.

The recalls were issued because the system was programmed to run stop signs at slow speeds and because the system disobeyed other traffic laws. Both problems were to be fixed with online software updates. □

Florida official warns Hurricane Milton victims about scammers posing as FEMA workers

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — The emergency management chief of the Florida county where Hurricane Milton made landfall earlier this month warned about reports of scammers in the area who are posing as Federal Emergency Management Agency officials and trying to get financial information from the storm's victims.

Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief Sandra Tapfumaneyi told residents on Thursday that some scammers with fake FEMA badges were asking residents for their bank account information, which they should never provide. Instead, hurricane victims seeking help should only share that on FEMA's online system, she said.

"Don't give out your bank account information to anyone who is knocking on your door," Tapfumaneyi said. "That is not an indication that they are there to help you. Don't give cash to anyone who says they are from FEMA."

Residents with any doubts about the authenticity of a FEMA worker should contact local authorities, she said.

Milton made landfall last week in Sarasota County as a Category 3 hurricane, just two weeks after Hurricane Helene also tore through Florida before raking much of the south-east, including western North Carolina.

In North Carolina, the work of FEMA workers was suspended for a short time last week-end following reports that FEMA workers could be targeted by militia as the government responds to Helene. A sheriff's office said earlier this week that one man was arrested during an investigation, but that the suspect acted alone. □



Resident Kerry Flynn, right, and a friend walk past a damaged home and the displaced roof of their 55+ mobile home community's tiki hut after the passage of Hurricane Milton, on Manasota Key, in Englewood, Fla., Oct. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

California utility shuts off power in 12 counties as 'diablo' wind spikes risk of wildfires

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

A California utility shut off power in 12 counties in the northern part of the state as a major "diablo wind" notorious in autumn for its hot, dry gusts spiked the risk of power lines sparking a wildfire.

About 13,000 customers woke up without electricity Friday after Pacific Gas and Electric shut off power. The "diablo wind" is forecast to cause sustained winds reaching 35 mph (56 kph) in many areas, with possible gusts topping 65 mph (104 kph) along mountaintops, according to the National Weather Service. The strong winds are expected to last through part of the weekend.

The utility began cutting power Thursday to customers in 12 counties, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, Solano and Sonoma in the Bay Area, and some customers farther north in Colusa, Glenn, Tehama and Shasta counties, PG&E said. A total of about 20,000 customers could lose power temporarily in the next couple of days, PG&E said in a statement Thursday. Forecasters have issued



An ember wash spreads over the landscape pushed by high winds during the Kincadee fire in the Geysers, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, in Sonoma County, Calif.

Associated Press

red flag warnings for fire danger until Saturday from the central coast through the San Francisco Bay Area and into northern Shasta County, not far from the Oregon border.

"This could end up being the most significant wind event for this year so far," said meteorologist Brayden Murdock with the service's Bay Area office. "We want to tell people to be cautious."

During a diablo wind, common in the fall, the air is so dry that relative humidity levels plunge, drying out vegetation and making it ready to burn. The name "diablo" is Spanish for "devil" is informally applied to a hot wind that blows near the San Francisco region from the interior toward the coast as high pressure builds over the West.

Targeted power shutoffs were also possible in South-

ern California, where another notorious weather phenomenon, the Santa Ana winds, are expected Friday and Saturday.

Santa Anas are dry, warm and gusty northeast winds that blow from the interior of Southern California toward the coast and offshore, moving in the opposite direction of the normal onshore flow that carries moist air from the Pacific into the region.

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for the valleys and mountains of Los Angeles County, portions of the Inland Empire, and the San Bernardino Mountains.

Winds around greater Los Angeles won't be as powerful as up north, with gusts between 25 and 40 mph (40 and 64 kph) possible in mountains and foothills, said Mike Wofford, a meteorologist with the weather service's Los Angeles-area office.

The strongest winds were being recorded in the Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountains, where Friday there were gusts between 45 and 55 mph (72 and 88 kph) with isolated gusts up to 60 mph (96 kph), he said.

"Humidities are drying out and we have the winds, if we had a fire spark it could really spread quickly because of the current conditions," Wofford said.

Meanwhile, some mountaintops around Lake Tahoe received light snowfall overnight Friday, according to the National Weather Service in Reno, Nevada. Near sub-freezing temperatures are expected again Friday night into Saturday. □

New York City's \$4B shelter system rife with mismanagement, nepotism, investigators say

By KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A yearslong investigation of



Green stickers indicate the row and place number of cots inside the dormitory tent during a media tour of a shelter being set up to house up to 1,000 migrants in the Queens borough of New York, Aug. 15, 2023

Associated Press

New York City's \$4 billion homeless shelter system found widespread mismanagement, self-dealing and nepotism.

The review of dozens of nonprofit organizations that contract with the city to provide shelter to unhoused individuals and families began in 2021, before the arrival of tens of thousands of migrants placed additional strains on New York's shelter system. It was released on Thursday by the city's Department of Investigation. Among the problems uncovered were that some shelters employed immediate family members of senior executives and board

members in apparent violation of their contracts with the city, the 100-page report states. In other instances, investigators found that some executives of city-funded shelters were also employed by security firms hired to provide services at the shelters.

Some shelter providers failed to follow competitive bidding rules when procuring goods and services, the investigators said. And some awarded multimillion-dollar maintenance contracts to companies affiliated with the buildings' landlords rather than putting the contracts out to bid. Executives at some

nonprofits that are funded largely by city taxpayers made \$700,000 or more a year, the report said, adding that the city lacks rules governing how much they can earn.

"When it comes to protecting the vast taxpayer resources that City-funded nonprofits receive, prevention is key," Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber said in a statement. "City-funded nonprofit service providers pose unique compliance and governance risks, and comprehensive City oversight is the best way to stop corruption, fraud, and waste before it starts." □

An American was reportedly kidnapped from a southern Philippine town and a search is underway

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippine police said Friday it has launched a search after gunmen reportedly abducted an American national, who was shot in the leg as he tried to resist before being spirited away from a southern Philippine coastal town by speedboat.

If confirmed to be a case of kidnapping for ransom, it would be the latest reminder of the long-running security problems that have hounded the southern Philippines, the homeland of a Muslim minority in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

Police in Sibuco town in the southern province of Zamboanga del Norte tried to pursue the suspected abductors and their victim, who they identified as Elliot Onil Eastman, 26, from Vermont, after the reported abduction on Thursday night.

"We confirm that there was a report of the alleged abduction of an American national," the regional police said in a statement. "We want to assure the public, particularly the community of Sibuco, that we are doing everything in our power to secure the safe recovery



In this photo provided by the Philippine National Police Regional Office 9, a policeman checks an area Friday Oct. 18, 2024, where an American identified as Elliot Onil Eastman, from Vermont, was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Sibuco town, Zamboanga del Norte province, southern Philippines.

of the victim."

The police asked the public to immediately provide any information that could help an ongoing investigation of the reported abduction.

Two police reports seen by The Associated Press said that a resident of Sibuco, Abdulmalik Hamsiran Jala, reported to police that four men in black clothing who were armed with M16 rifles and introduced themselves as police officers forcibly took Eastman, who tried to

escape.

One of the gunmen shot Eastman in the leg before dragging him into a speedboat then fled by sea further south toward the provinces of Basilan or Sulu, the police reports said.

Policemen chased but failed to find the gunmen and Eastman and alerted other police and Philippine marine units in the region, according to the reports.

Philippine authorities did not immediately provide

Associated Press

background details of Eastman, but a person with a similar name has posted pictures and videos of himself on Facebook saying he had married a Muslim woman in Sibuco.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to questions about the reported abduction.

The southern Philippines has bountiful resources but has long been hamstrung by stark poverty and an array of insurgents and outlaws.

A 2014 peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest of several Muslim separatist groups, has considerably eased widespread fighting in the south. Relentless military offensives have weakened smaller armed groups like the notoriously violent Abu Sayyaf group over the years, considerably reducing kidnappings, bombings and other attacks.

The Abu Sayyaf group, which is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States and the Philippines, is an offshoot of decades-long Muslim separatist unrest in the south and carried out mass kidnappings for ransom, beheadings and bombings more than two decades ago in the southern region.

They targeted American and other Western tourists and religious missionaries, most of whom were freed after ransoms were paid. A few were killed, including an American who was beheaded on the island province of Basilan and a U.S. missionary who was killed while Philippine army forces were trying to rescue him and his wife in 2002 in a rainforest in Sirawai town near Sibuco. □

U.S. laments 'disappointing' Swiss decision not to fully adopt latest EU sanctions against Russia

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP)

— The United States is expressing disappointment over a decision by the Swiss government not to adopt all measures in the latest round of European Union sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine.

Amb. Scott Miller, the top U.S. envoy in the Swiss capital, expressed hope that Bern will work to close a "loophole" that allows overseas subsidiaries to get around sanctions, which aim to punish the Russian government over President Vladimir Putin's all-out war in Ukraine launched in February 2022.

"It is essential we target sanctions circumvention to dent Russia the finances and materiel it needs to continue its brutal war. None of our companies should be complicit," Miller said in a statement.

The Swiss Federal Council, the executive

branch, announced Wednesday it had decided to adopt "most of the measures" included in the latest EU sanctions. While Switzerland isn't one of the bloc's 27 member countries, Bern has largely hewed to its sanctions against Russia in a bid to curtail its war machine in Ukraine.

In the statement sent Friday to The Associated Press, Miller said the council's decision "to not fully adopt all components of the 14th package of sanctions ... is disappointing."

Many developed countries have sought to curtail Russia's access to Western finance, markets and technology, and shunned or limited imports of Russian goods. The measures have had a limited effect on Russia's economy, not least because many countries including major developing nations like China, India, Turkey and Brazil are still doing a lot of business with Russia. □



U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Scott Miller gives a statement during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano, Switzerland, on July 5, 2022.

Associated Press

Mexican newspaper offices hit by gunfire in Sinaloa state's capital

By MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — As-sailants fired a dozen gunshots at a building housing the newspaper El Debate in the embattled northern Mexico state of Sinaloa, the media outlet said Friday. The newspaper is based in the state capital, Culiacan, where rival factions of the Sinaloa Cartel have been staging bloody battles. The newspaper said it found at least four bullet impacts on the building's walls, and more gunfire hit newspaper vehicles parked in front of the offices late Thursday. The paper said that no one was injured.

The Mexican Media Alliance, a press freedom group, called it "a direct attack against press freedom and right of the public to be informed."

El Debate said that the as-sailants arrived in two vehicles and stopped briefly in front of the building. One gunman got out and opened fire with a rifle, before they sped off.

Threats against journalists and their sources have increased exponentially since the latest round of factional fighting broke out after two Sinaloa drug capos one from each faction flew to the United States and were arrested there.

Drug lords Ismael "El Mayo"



National Guards patrol the streets in Culiacan, Sinaloa state, Mexico, Monday, Oct. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López were apprehended in the United States after flying there in a small plane on July 25. Zambada later claimed he was kidnapped and forced aboard the plane by Guzmán López, causing a violent battle between Zambada's faction and the "Chapitos" group led by the sons of imprisoned drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán.

Journalists have reported being stopped by gunmen on roadways outside Culiacan and told they couldn't cover the continuing gun-

battles occurring on the outskirts of the city on an almost daily basis.

In 2017, Javier Valdez, an award-winning reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain in Sinaloa's state capital.

There is little doubt that the warring cartel factions in Sinaloa want to intimidate the media into not reporting on their battles, and that has forced local residents to turn largely to social media for reports on when it might be safe to go out, and where the danger is.

Those social media platforms were full on Friday of videos of burning vehicles, bodies and cartel convoys speeding through towns.

As usual, there was no confirmation of that from state authorities, who have consistently tried to downplay the violence. But the truth leaks out around the edges: Sinaloa State University told students that it was canceling in-person classes Friday because of "the acts of violence in and around the Sinaloa state capital."

Those online videos sometimes depict scenes that could be compared to a

war: two weeks ago in a town north of Culiacan, a passing driver filmed a military helicopter hovering over four gunmen in helmets and tactical vests just yards from a highway. The gunmen had crashed their truck into a telephone pole, but were shooting back at the chopper.

However, the online rumor mill is sometimes unreliable. The Sinaloa Red Cross was forced to issue a statement late Thursday denying reports that two paramedics had been kidnapped along with their ambulance in an outlying town where fighting has been especially fierce.

But even the Red Cross was spooked it was careful to say that "it is important to stress that the Mexican Red Cross is not taking any side in the conflict."

State prosecutors were largely left hamstrung after the chief state prosecutor resigned after allegedly submitting false information about the July 25 killing of an opponent of the state's governor, Rubén Rocha.

And the entire municipal force in Culiacan has been temporarily disarmed by soldiers to check their guns, something that's been done in the past when the army suspects that police officers are working for drug cartels. □

Three Americans among latest to be detained in Venezuela over alleged anti-government plot



Venezuelan Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello, left, and Palestinian Ambassador to Venezuela Maher Taha, take part in a rally celebrating the July 28 reelection of President Nicolás Maduro, in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela detained five more foreigners, including three U.S. citizens, for their alleged connection to a plot to destabilize the country, the interior minister announced Thursday, marking the latest round of arrests for what authorities have characterized as anti-government activities following the disputed July presidential election.

Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello did not provide proof to back the allegations that the detainees were linked to terrorist activities. As in similar previous announcements, he also claimed without showing any evidence that U.S. intelligence agencies planned the activities.

Cabello did not say when the five people were detained. He said a Peruvian and a Bolivian citizen were taken into custody along with the three Americans. He said all "speak Spanish perfectly" and traveled to the country claiming to be "in love with Venezuela" and planning "to see their partner."

Last month, Cabello announced the arrests of three Americans, two Spaniards and a Czech citizen whom he accused of traveling to Venezuela to assassinate President Nicolás Maduro. Cabello said the foreign citizens were part of a CIA-led plot to overthrow the Venezuelan government and kill several members of its leadership.

The mid-September announcement came two days after the U.S. imposed sanctions on 16 allies of Maduro whom the Biden administration accused of obstructing voting during the July 28 presidential election and carrying out human rights abuses. □

Adriaan Laclé

One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century



(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his heyday he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact,

he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion func-



tions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: *De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)* by Evert Bongers.

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

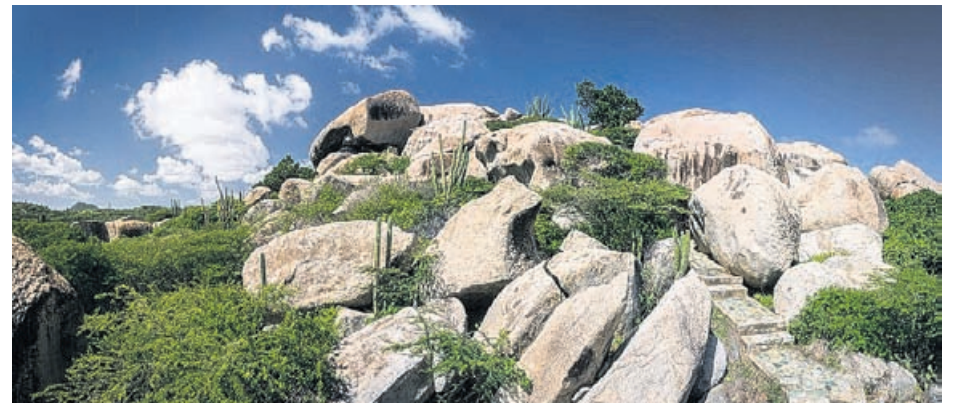
Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mon-

di”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area contain-



ing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way! □

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!



Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

SUPER
B I N G O
SATURDAY!
SUNDAY FUNDAY
B I N G O

Super 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$111
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

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Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral

and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all

give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back



to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year

search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite



literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curaçao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from

the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Brad & Mrs. Debra Promisel from Brick Township New Jersey, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- "Aruba is our home away from home"
- "The feeling of safety & security on the island"
- "Direct flight is always amazing"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this

tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower. The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zout-

man had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail,



and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the

social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba
by Jan Hartog.

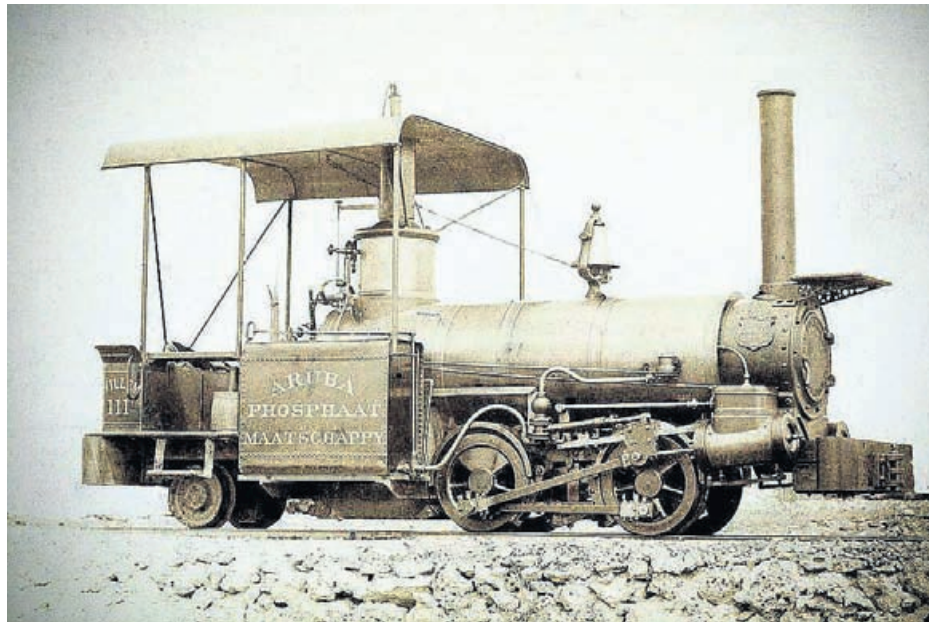
Aruba's natural product: phosphate

ORANJESTAD — In the 19th century another natural product, besides gold, was found to be fit for exploitation. On Seroe Colorado, at the utmost south-easterly tip of the island, guano was found. This limestone, containing phosphoric acid, originates from bird droppings, in this case sea gulls. There was a broad world market for phosphate that was used as a fertilizer.

The discovery of guano is being credited to J. H. Waters Gravenhorst in 1874, but it seems that in 1859 already an American, S. R. Kimball, who was digging guano on the Aves islands, had applied for a permit for exploitation. If it actually has come to that, remains unknown.

In 1871, guano had also been discovered on Klein Curaçao by the Englishman John Godden. His discovery caused quite a hype on de Antillian islands, a kind of 'guano mania'. On Curaçao too, guano was found and exploited by Godden. The phosphate was very conspicuous by its color: yellow to red-brown or the color of liver, sometimes green or purple. That's how Seroe Colorado (the Colored Hill) got its name.

After the discovery of guano on Aruba by Gravenhorst, exploitation was started by the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij (APM), founded in December of 1879. The center of exportation was San Nicolas, which only consisted of a few fishermen's huts before. The activities surrounding the exploitation and exportation of phosphate led to more and more huts being built there. It already started to look quite like a little village, where sailors from the ships that came for the phosphate came looking



for distraction ashore. Local labor was initially only found with difficulty: that was because of the rival branch of industry, the exploitation of gold. That's why forty men were attracted from Bonaire and about twenty bricklayers and carpenters from Curaçao. Even a group of Italians was attracted to the island to manage the company; four of them never left the island: Antonio and Victorio Petrocci, Eugenio Falconi and Cajetano Jacopucci. They settled at Tanki Leendert.

The exploitation of phosphate led to the development of the settlement of Sint Nicolaas (San Nicolas). First a wooden pier was built in the harbor and the phosphate was taken there by donkey. In 1881, new material arrived from England and New York. The installations that were built then were ultramodern for that time. In the Sint Nicolaasbay, an iron landing was built and that was the most modern harbor facility in the whole Caribbean at that time. For the transport of the phosphate to the harbor, a six kilometer long narrow gauge rail-

way was built and the phosphate was taken to the loading berth in trains of about twenty tip carts and a steam locomotive. There it was loaded into sail ships that took it to countries like England, France, Germany and the United States to be processed to super phosphate that was used as fertilizer. The phosphate company had its own tugboat (the 'S.S. Phosphate') and its own pilot to get the ships safely in and out of the Sint Nicolaasbay. The time that was needed to load a ship was being reduced from 15 to 5 days. Three- to five hundred tons of phosphate per day could be handled by the pier. In 1882, about 250 men worked in the phosphate industry and the salaries were not bad. People came from all over the island to work in the phosphate mines; those who lived in the surroundings of Noord, had to get on their way by foot or on a donkey by Sunday afternoon, stayed overnight in Savaneta to start working on Monday. The workers stayed near the phosphate mines all week and slept in barracks. On Satur-

days, they worked half day, after which they set out to return home on foot or on a donkey.....

Business went well and soon a profit was made which allowed paying off the loans that were made for the investments. A dividend could be paid out as well.

Initially, phosphate was extracted on Seroe Colorado and Seroe Cul-ebra. When the supply at the surface of the hills was exhausted after about fifteen years, they went on to look for phosphate deeper in the ground. On a depth of 15 to 18 meters, phosphate layers, six feet thick on average, were discovered at Banki Jerome, a bit more to the north. Mines were made to bring up the material. Those provided enough phosphate for the next 15 years. Holes were drilled by hand into the phosphate and then it was extracted with explosives.

The exploitation of the phosphate caused the revenues of the island to rise considerably and that made it possible to support the other islands of the colony Curaçao (the Netherlands Antilles did not yet exist) as well. In the years of exploitation (that went on till 1914), 530,060 tons were exported with a total market value of almost 17 million guilders. Aruba could generate about 4 million guilders from exportation taxes.

But in the course of the years, phosphate exploitation became less profitable: as the phosphate had to be extracted from deeper underground, the quality became poorer. Furthermore, there was strong competition from good quality phosphate from Canada. Good and relatively cheap phosphate came out of Florida as well and as a result, the global prices went down. The APM found out that the expenses to exploit phosphate were too high to be able to still be competitive. Even though the tax rates had been reduced by the government, the profits continued to go down and finally the expenses could not be covered anymore.

When World War I broke out in 1914, the exploitation of phosphate became very difficult. It was impossible to get dynamite and the means of exportation became worse as a result of the war in Europe. The Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij closed down in August of 1914 and a year later, the company was dissolved by its shareholders. Workers left again and went looking for work in the surrounding countries like Venezuela and Colombia.□

Source: www.historiadiaruba.aw.



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce,



cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial

period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for

and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more

attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas

Queen Winnie and King Skipp are back in Aruba



This couple have been coming to Aruba for the last 40plus years and soon will be their 50th vacation here in Aruba. Married for 66 years and owners of Speed garage for the last 63 years.

Over the years this this has been a real blessing for Aruba sending all their friends to Aruba. This trip is their 3rd trip for this year here in Aruba and have everything paid for next february for Winnie's 18th birthday. Yes they are very fun and a happy couple always ready to crack funny jokes.

Thanks a lot Winnie and Skipp for so much love for our island and see you two next year in February for Winnie's birthday.bon □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Newscast

1 Unexciting segment

5 The Milky Way, e.g. fixture

11 Shortly, in poems

12 Infant outfit

13 Poker game

14 Select on the radio dial

15 Model buy

16 Triangular sails

17 Half of Hispaniola

19 Urgent call

22 Boring

24 Cone fill

26 River to the Severn

27 Greek liqueur

28 Ceases

30 Sacred song

31 Pub pint

32 Suppress

34 Supply with cash

35 Young seal

38 Luau setting

41 Tedious fellow

42 "King of the Trumpet"

43 Radius partner

DOWN

1 Chore

2 Opposed to

3 Ski mask feature

4 Purpose

5 "I understand"

6 Jackal-headed god

7 Micro-scope part

8 Enzyme suffix

9 Noon, on a clock

10 Desire

16 Huck's friend

A	C	M	E		S	H	I	P	S
C	H	A	T	S		H	I	M	O
T	A	K	E	A	T	U	M	B	L
O	N	E		B	A	T		I	L
R	E	M	A	R	K		A	B	E
	L	E	V	E	E		L	E	N
		O	S	A	G	E			
G	N	A	W		T	O	R	S	O
R	O	W	S		U	T	T	E	R
A	N	A		P	R	O		R	I
T	A	K	E	A	N	U	M	B	E
E	M	E	N	D		T	A	I	N
S	E	N	D	S		P	A	T	S

Yesterday's answer

18 Pop's sister

19 Low point, of a sort

20 Seep

21 Location

22 "Very funny!"

23 Track shape

25 Dove calls

29 Use a water pistol

30 Enraged

33 Feet and meters

34 Ump's call

36 Coffee dispensers

37 Summit

38 Pos-sesses

39 Swiss summit

40 Question of identity

41 Future flower

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17	18					19	20	21
22	23					24	25			
26							27			
28				29		30				
31				32	33					
			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

3-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

YCT'P YP ALDYOEPXZD PU

EMFL XBYLTAC HURYTO XBUR

MXMB? — HEYTLCL KBUFLBS
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONE IS LOVED
BECAUSE ONE IS LOVED. NO REASON IS NEEDED
FOR LOVING. — PAULO COELHO

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	3				9			
		9		4	8		5	
			5		2		3	4
							1	8
3			2	1				
2								5
	7							2
5	1						8	
8	4	2	6	3				9

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/19

Answer to previous puzzle

5	7	9	4	1	6	8	2	3
2	3	6	8	9	5	4	7	1
8	4	1	2	3	7	6	9	5
9	2	4	5	7	8	3	1	6
3	8	5	9	6	1	2	4	7
6	1	7	3	4	2	9	5	8
1	5	2	6	8	4	7	3	9
7	9	8	1	2	3	5	6	4
4	6	3	7	5	9	1	8	2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/18

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

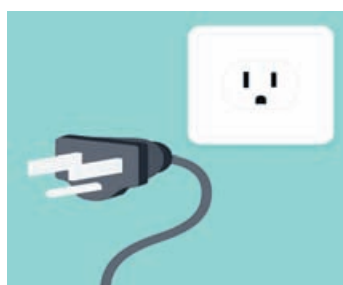


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Judge delays order in antitrust case requiring Google to open up its app store



This Tuesday, July 19, 2016, file photo shows the Google logo at the company's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.
Associated Press

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Friday delayed an order requiring Google to open up its Android app store to more competition until an appeals court decides whether to block the shake-up because of legal questions surrounding a jury's verdict that branded Google as an illegal monopolist. The delay granted during a court hearing in San Francisco comes less than two weeks after U.S. District Judge James Donato issued a decision that would have forced Google to make sweeping changes to its Play Store for Android smartphones starting Nov. 1. The mandated changes included a provision that would have required

Google to make its library of more than 2 million Android apps available to any rivals that wanted access to the inventory and also distribute the alternative options in its own Play Store. Google requested Donato's order be stayed until the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals could examine the handling of a month-long trial that led to the December 2023 verdict, which framed the Play Store as an illegal monopoly that stifles innovation and drives up consumer prices. In Friday's hearing, Donato scoffed at the notion that Google could succeed in overturning the trial verdict. "The verdict in this case was amply supported by a mountain of evidence about Google's

anti-competitive conduct," the judge said. But he decided the Ninth Circuit should be given a chance to consider a postponement until a panel of judges can decide can consider Google's appeal of the 2023 trial focused on antitrust claims lodged by video game maker Epic Games.

Donato said he wouldn't be surprised if the Ninth Circuit imposes an even longer delay on his ruling, "but that is for someone else to decide."

In a statement, Google said it was pleased Donato hit the pause button while it tries to extend the delay even further. "These remedies threaten Google Play's ability to provide a safe and secure experience and we look forward to continuing to make our case to protect 100 million U.S. Android users, over 500,000 U.S. developers

and thousands of partners who have benefited from our platforms," Google said.

Epic declined to comment. It's unclear how long the Ninth Circuit will take to decide on Google's request for a permanent stay of Donato's ruling while its appeals unfolds a process that could take more than a year. □



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WK 7 and 14 - all views

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2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

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1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000
GOLD SEASON
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Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Sta. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas:

San Lucas: Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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Reba McEntire finds a new on-screen family in NBC's 'Happy's Place'

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Reba McEntire finds herself behind the bar in her latest return to network TV, making a series that's a nicely calibrated cocktail of drama and comedy.

"The things that are most important in my life is love, hope, faith, happiness, energy, light. And that's all of the things that are happening with this show," the country music legend says. NBC's "Happy's Place" premiering Friday finds McEntire's character, Bobbie, inheriting a Tennessee tavern from her recently-deceased father and finding out in the first episode that he had a second family. Even more alarming is the fact that her dad left ownership of the bar to both Bobbie and her newly-discovered sister, Isabella. Add to the tension is that the two women are divided by ethnicity and a generation or two.

"I'm shocked. I mean, I didn't think Daddy could ever do anything like this, 'cause he always said family was the most important thing," Bobbie says. To which, Isabella replies:



This image released by NBC shows Belissa Escobedo, left, and Reba McEntire in a scene from "Happy Place."

"Maybe that's why he started two of them."

Belissa Escobedo, who plays Isabella, says the new series can be seen as both sweet and sour, as these two women learn to make peace and move forward. "I think Bobbie reacts to this news very differently than Isabella does, and the audience is able to see it and understand both sides. I love that Isabella kind of

just inches her way into Bobbie's heart," says Escobedo.

In the series, Bobbie finally looks at Isabella and realizes what she's done: "I've been looking at you like a person that has been forced upon me. Instead, I should be looking at you like a sister that's been given to me."

Escobedo, whose film credits include "Blue Beetle,"

"Hocus Pocus 2" and who has been a series regular in TV shows like "The Baker and the Beauty," says working with McEntire is a joy.

"She is an angel. She is so sweet, so down to earth. She does everything with a smile and comes in ready to work, but also ready to have fun." The new series comes from TV veteran Kevin Abbott with a lengthy list of credits, including pro-

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ducing "Reba," "Last Man Standing," "Roseanne" and "Golden Girls."

The show has a welcome "Cheers" vibe, another NBC stalwart set in a bar, which allows easy reasons for new stories through guest stars and room for some oddball regulars to flourish, including a reunion with McEntire and Melissa Peterman, who shined together in "Reba" and Rex Lin, a frequent collaborator.

One of the early production ideas was to cast McEntire as a schoolteacher and have Peterman as the principal.

But "Abbott Elementary" came out on ABC so that idea went out the window. The next proposal was exploring the idea of a secret family, inspired by 23andMe, the ancestry-tracing company.

"A lot of people can relate to this finding that you've got a third cousin you didn't know.

I think that's what helps shows be successful is when they're relatable.

That happens with books, songs, movies: If you can relate to it, it's going to be more successful," says McEntire. □

'Breaking Bad' star appears in ad campaign against littering in New Mexico

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The indelible lead character from the "Breaking Bad" streaming series has a new starring role in a public service ad campaign against littering in New Mexico.

The 15- and 30-second ad spots were unveiled Thursday at an arthouse movie theater in Santa Fe's urban railyard district. Local officials hope actor Bryan Cranston's brief reprise of the character Walter White will draw new awareness to the impacts of everyday litter and illegal dumping of trash, tires and appliances. The ad is titled "Breaking Bad habits," and it depicts White rolling a steel drum into the remote New Mexico desert before using it to

collect and dispose of litter by hand. The maniacal

chemist-turned-drug dealer tells viewers in a menacing

voice to "keep litter out of my territory."

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham believes the mythical methamphetamine kingpin from "Breaking Bad" will get people's attention and help draw attention to serious concerns surrounding litter and pollution in a state that relies economically on outdoor tourism and filmmaking.

"I need everyone's attention," said Lujan Grisham, a Democrat. "We're going to talk about what you can do to reduce packaging and plastics and have a discussion about that and about where they go."

The marketing campaign taps into \$3 million in state funding and will involve

billboard ads. It's accompanied by cleanup efforts involving state agencies, public schools, youth recreation centers and prison inmate crews.

An array of county and city officials attended the screening of the ad from "Breaking Bad" director Vince Gilligan. Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller said the online economy has shifted some waste disposal costs onto consumers in inefficient ways that merit reconsideration.

"The amount of bulk trash is moving to your house because we're all doing more mail order," he said. "Now we're asking residences to pay for that, so it's creating a real rub there." □



New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham introduces a public service ad campaign against littering that features "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston in a reprise of the series' character Walter White, on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, in Santa Fe, N.M..

Associated Press

Inside the LeBron numbers: Entering Year 22, James' statistical resume only keeps growing

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James is entering his record-tying 22nd NBA season, a mark that only newly enshrined Basketball Hall of Famer Vince Carter has reached.

Obviously, that's not the only number that jumps out when talking about James' career. Already the NBA's career scoring leader and now a four-time Olympic medalist, James' body of work in the league is evident by looking at just about any stat list that can be drummed up. And this year, the Los Angeles Lakers star who is set to play alongside son Bronny this season is set to keep climbing the charts.

A look inside James' statistics and his still-evolving place in NBA history:

LeBron has never been average

This is one of the more fascinating stats of James' career. To this point and this has been the case for the majority of his time in the NBA James averages 27 points, seven rebounds and seven assists per game.

But he's never had an average night. None of James' 1,492 regular-season games (or any of his 287 playoff games) has ended with him having exactly 27 points, seven rebounds and seven as-



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James reacts during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

sists. He's been close, many times 77 games ended with him scoring exactly 27 points, 11 games had him with 27 points and seven rebounds, six games had him with 27 points and seven assists, and 11 games saw him one rebound and one assist away from finishing at 27-7-7.

For the record, 27-7-7 nights are rare. There's been only 51 in NBA history, not counting four others in the playoffs. Jerry West had two in the regular season and one more in postseason play. Grant Hill, Russell Westbrook and Jo Jo White all had 27-7-7 games twice. Kevin Durant has one in the regular season and one more in the playoffs. Nobody else has ever had more than one. Paul George

had the only such game last season. Lakers star chasing Kareem, again James is on the verge of catching Kareem Abdul-Jabbar yet again in a few ways.

James the NBA all-time scoring king after passing Abdul-Jabbar atop that list in February 2023 enters this season No. 6 on the list of regular season games played with 1,492.

He can't take over the top spot this season; Robert Parish has played 1,611 games. But James, if he plays in 68 games, could catch Abdul-Jabbar (1,560) for No. 2 on the list. In that scenario, he'll also have passed Vince Carter (1,541) for No. 3, Dirk Nowitzki (1,522) for No. 4 and John Stockton (1,504)

for No. 5. Including playoffs, though, James is on pace to become the leader possibly as early as late November. He has appeared in 1,779 total games, 16 behind Parish (1,795) and 18 behind Abdul-Jabbar (1,797). That doesn't include James' appearance in the inaugural NBA Cup championship game, which isn't factored into official stats because it doesn't count in the standings. If James doesn't miss games, he would appear in his record-setting 1,798th game, officially and including playoffs, on Nov. 29 at home against Oklahoma City. And in regular-season minutes, James is No. 2 with 56,597. That's 849 away from Abdul-Jabbar's record there of 57,446. At his current average of around 35 minutes per game, James could catch Abdul-Jabbar sometime around the Lakers' Christmas Day game against Golden State.

LeBron climbing other lists
A breakdown of where James sits on other lists and what he needs to do to keep climbing:

— Field goals: James is currently No. 2, exactly 1,000 behind Abdul-Jabbar (15,837 to 14,837) in regular-season play. Adding in playoffs, James is No. 2 has 17,765 — 428 away from Abdul-

Jabbar's mark.

— Free throws: James is No. 3 with 8,390 in regular-season play, 141 away from matching No. 2 Moses Malone (8,531). The record is likely out of reach unless James plays many more seasons; Karl Malone is No. 1 on the list with 9,787.

— Assists: James is No. 4 with 11,009 in regular-season play. San Antonio's Chris Paul is No. 3 with 11,894; because Paul is still playing it seems unlikely that James will be moving up on that list this season.

— 3-pointers: James is No. 8 with 2,410, 40 back of No. 7 Kyle Korver.

— Steals: James is No. 8 with 2,275 in regular-season play, 32 back of No. 7 Scottie Pippen (2,307) and 35 back of No. 6 Maurice Cheeks (2,310).

Life at 40 (and beyond) for LeBron

James turns 40 on Dec. 30, which means he could play in 53 games this season after reaching that milestone birthday.

And once he gets there — the Lakers' first game after the big birthday is the next night, New Year's Eve at home against one of his former clubs, the Cleveland Cavaliers — James will start moving up the 40-and-older charts as well. □

Dallas Wings fire coach Latricia Trammell after 2 seasons

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

The Dallas Wings fired coach Latricia Trammell on Friday.

Trammell went 31-49 in two seasons with the Dallas Wings, including 2-3 in playoff appearances. This past season the team went 9-31 and missed the WNBA postseason for the first time since 2020.

"After an extensive review of our basketball operations department, which included interviews and conversations with stakeholders across our organization, I have made the decision to relieve Latricia Trammell

of her head coaching duties with the Dallas Wings," said the team's President and CEO Greg Bibb. "On behalf of our entire organization I thank Latricia for her efforts and wish her well moving forward."

The Wings will also look to hire a general manager for the first time. Bibb handled the GM duties in the past.

"As part of our year-end review process, and in conjunction with our organizational long-term strategic planning, I have decided to expand and strengthen our basketball operations through the hiring of a general manager who will

oversee the day-to-day operation of our basketball group," said Bibb. "The search for this individual has already begun and I hope to have more news on this hire soon. The general manager will lead the search for the next head coach of the Dallas Wings." Trammell is the fourth coach to be let go in the last month. She joined Curt Miller of Los Angeles, Tanisha Wright of Atlanta and Teresa Weatherspoon of Chicago. None of the four had more than three years at the organization.

Dallas has the second best chance to win the draft



Dallas Wings head coach Latricia Trammell walks along the court during the second half of Game 3 of a WNBA basketball playoffs semifinal against the Las Vegas Aces, Sept. 29, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

lottery behind Los Angeles and the Wings also own the rights to switch picks with Chicago.

The Sky are also in the draft lottery that will be held on

Nov. 17.

Wings stars Natasha Howard and Satou Sabally are both unrestricted free agents this offseason. □

Patriots practice on Winston Churchill's old stomping grounds in London

By **KEN MAGUIRE**

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — They'll toil and sweat but hopefully without the blood and tears. A London game is more than just a typical road trip for NFL teams. It's a chance to learn about local history, too.

In fact, the New England Patriots and Jacksonville Jaguars who play Sunday at Wembley Stadium don't even need to leave their practice facilities to do so. The Patriots trained Friday at the exclusive Harrow School, whose most famous alumnus is Winston Churchill. Farther out in the countryside, the Jaguars have been using a practice field that is nearly on top of a maze of World War II air raid shelters.

Harrow consists of 324 acres on a hill overlooking London where Churchill spent his high school years before entering politics and leading Britain through World War II as prime minister.

"If any of the Pats players take a break from practice, they should walk around and see the school grounds because they're quite grand," said Lee Pollock, a director and senior adviser to the board of the International Churchill Society.

A highlight is the Speech Room, where young Churchill



New England Patriots players warm up during NFL football practice, Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, in Harrow, England.

recited 1,200 lines from the poem "Lays of Ancient Rome" from memory and won a prize for the feat.

"At Harrow, he learned what he called the most noble thing in the world: the construction of a sentence in the English language," Pollock said.

Patriots coach Jerod Mayo noted another big character a fictional one from Harrow's more recent history.

"I'm definitely a big history guy and I would also say I

just learned that there was a Harry Potter scene shot here as well, which I thought was pretty interesting," Mayo said. Deatrich Wise Jr., a defensive end, said he already knew Churchill was an alum because "someone said it on the way in."

Pockets of American politicians have long admired and quoted the cigar-chomping Churchill, and that's spilled over into sports too. San Diego Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh is a big fan.

Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker cited Churchill in a social media post about courage, though he's not the first to misattribute a quote to him.

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson had a large Churchill portrait in his office at the U.S. embassy when he was ambassador to the United Kingdom under then-President Donald Trump. Outside of his wartime leadership, Churchill's legacy is more complex.

The Jags are close to history, too. To avoid German bombing in WWII, the London, Midland and Scottish Railway bought the Grove estate in Watford and moved its headquarters there. It was called "Project X." Air raid shelters were built and are still intact explorers have posted videos online even though the entrances appear to be at least partially blocked. At one point they were being used as "bat roosts," according to historical records. The Grove luxury hotel where the Jags now regularly stay opened in 2003.

Several entrances to the shelters are visible in the woods next to the Jags' practice field.

Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence, speaking generally about the team's annual London trip, says he's always up for learning more about the region.

"I do enjoy history and learning about things," he said on Wednesday. "I don't know a ton about the area, to be honest. Usually when we're here it's pretty busy and we're kind of focused on the game and trying to win that, but I am intrigued and I think it's cool just everything here at the Grove but also just in London — it's so much older than in America." □

Danielle Collins isn't retiring from tennis after all. She'll be back in 2025

Danielle Collins says she's changed her mind about retiring from the WTA Tour at the end of this year and will be back in 2025.

The 30-year-old American said on her Instagram account Thursday that after dealing with hurricanes in her home state of Florida and seeing specialist doctors about her health issues, she's been "a little MIA (missing in action) the last few weeks."

"Dealing with endometriosis and fertility is a massive challenge for many women and something that I am actively traversing, but I am fully confident in the team I am working with. It

is just going to take longer than I thought," she said.



Danielle Collins, of the United States, reacts in the first set against Caroline Dolehide, of the United States, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, on Aug. 27, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

"So, the DANIMAL story has not reached its conclusion. I will be back on tour in 2025."

Collins' social media post came only hours after a United Cup media release Friday in Australia listed her as one of the American entries, along with Coco Gauff, for the mixed teams tournament in Perth and Sydney from Dec. 27 to Jan. 5. It's one of several tune-up tournaments ahead of the 2025 Australian Open, which begins on Jan. 12.

Collins, who lost to Ash Barty in the final of the 2022 Australian Open for her best Grand Slam singles result, said at this year's Mel-

bourne Park tournament that she planned to retire after the 2024 season.

Among other matches this year, she had an injury retirement in the quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics in a fiery match with Iga Swiatek, and lost in the first round of the U.S. Open. Collins is currently ranked ninth on the WTA Tour in singles.

"While there are no guarantees in life, I hope to build on my 2024 momentum and keep playing until there is more certainty around my personal fertility journey," she said. "The only guarantee for now will be some more epic matches." □